



**Leslie Park Community Association Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 22, 2018**  
**7:00pm**  
**St. John the Apostel School**

**Meeting Minutes:**

<b><u>Agenda Item:</u></b>	<b><u>Action Items:</u></b>
<p><b>1) Welcome and Introductions</b> (Rachel Tweedy)            Over 40 neighbours attended this meeting including Councillor Rick Chiarelli</p>	
<p><b>2) Thank you to our volunteers</b> (Rachel Tweedy)            Rachel acknowledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Howard and Jane O’Regan and their team of rink supervisors and rink maintenance volunteers. Special thanks to our resident snow blower consultant Jim McNally</li> <li>• Thank you to Kristine Bourque and Anthony Taza who coordinated another successful Winter Fun Day in January</li> <li>• Karyn Bowman and Jim McNally who, along with Krissy Bourque sponsored the Winter Fun Day.</li> <li>• Nicole Lauro who agreed to coordinate the Membership drive again this May</li> <li>• Allison Cleary who coordinates the Association’s sponsors to ensure our newsletters and events can remain as cost neutral as possible</li> <li>• Alina Matern and Alfia Sorokina who are going to coordinate the picnic in the park crafts and activities again</li> <li>• Melinda Buijs who is our social media coordinator extraordinaire – she did a great job coordinating the Griswold competition</li> <li>• Shelley Murdock and Margo Nelson who have been offering fitness and yoga (and snowga) classes to our residents. Thank you for positively impacting the health of our community!</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3) Update from Councillor Rick Chiarelli</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Leslie Park School</b></li> <li>• the report recommending that Leslie Park is declared surplus was released early this year</li> </ul>	

- there will be a decision made on May 1 at the OCDSB's committee of the whole meeting to confirm whether the school will be declared surplus - there is now a sign in front of the school announcing this
- Councillor Chiarelli reported that Academie de la Capitale - the private French school is not as interested in the space given that they have just re-signed a lease and done significant renovations in the past few months
- Councillor Chiarelli had a meeting with the QCH on March 20th as it is a priority for them to look for creative ways to offer services and programs for seniors outside of the hospital - they don't have the space and from an infectious diseases point of view - bringing seniors in to the hospital puts them at risk of getting ill
- the outcome of that meeting is the QCH has asked LPCA to request a feasibility assessment from the City for the site to offer seniors' services in the school's space - with the vision of transitioning this building into a 'community hub'. This request was made to the City on March 21st.
- Because the LPCA has a potential partner and an idea for the space, Rachel made a request on March 21st for the LPCA to be considered for the [Province's Surplus Property Transition Initiative](#). This initiative can provide funding to cover the carrying costs of maintaining a building for up to 18 months while a community hub plan is developed, and partners secured. This removes the sense of urgency for the Board to get rid of the space quickly. The deadline for funding requests was October but Mike Carson, CFO of OCDSB encouraged Rachel to apply anyway. MPP Bob Chiarelli, who oversees the Community Hubs initiative is aware of our intention to pursue this.
- Rachel reported that Rideau High School applied for this transition funding and they were approved but apparently the groups planning that hub haven't been able to secure any funding beyond the 18 months of support from the province.
- Councillor Chiarelli has also advised Rachel to send a letter to Dr. Vera Etches, Acting Medical Officer for Health with the City - asking for a study on the building for senior services as well
- Councillor Chiarelli reported that of the 5 schools closed in our ward, this is the only one being considered for a community hub
- **Residents had other suggestions for partners & improving the community benefits of the building:**
  - Creating a satellite campus or offer some of CHEO's services at the building to improve access for west end communities
  - Having a coffee shop on site to create a space for community gatherings

**Rachel:** Send letter to Dr. Vera Etches

**Councillor Chiarelli:**  
Follow up with Alex Munter at CHEO

- Rachel confirmed that with the creation of the community hub, the LPCA would still have access to the space for their programs or meetings
- Councillor Chiarelli confirmed that it is too soon for developers to file for zoning changes or bid on the land as there is a priority list and municipal/provincial agencies are near the top of the list
  
- **Resurfacing of roads in Leslie Park**
- Councillor Chiarelli reported that Greenbank, between the Queensway and Harrison (including Harrison) will be resurfaced in summer 2018
- Councillor Chiarelli confirmed that any long-term plans or lack of plans for Leslie Park School should not affect this schedule
- Councillor Chiarelli reported that all other roads (including Abingdon) will be scheduled for resurfacing within a 5-year window.
  
- **Development at 2940 Baseline Road (Monster Hallowe'en/Dollarama plaza)**
- According to the permit, construction on two buildings could begin in summer 2018 but Brigil has deferred this while they go through the process of changing plans for the phase 1 building from an apartment building to a retirement home
- Councillor Chiarelli noted that he is lobbying for a proper green grocer/produce store to go in the space, not a Shopper's Drug Mart with grocery
  
- **Status of development of underground bus depot at Baseline/Woodroffe**
- Councillor Chiarelli reported that the development will be completed once the ground thaws and that it will take an additional \$16M to open it up to Tallwood to create a full tunnel that could service light rail phase 2
- He noted that this station is significant as Baseline & Woodroffe is the geographic centre of the City with the largest concentration of population
- He also reported that he will have an opportunity to take citizens on tours of the station in the spring/summer

**Councillor Chiarelli:**  
Contact LPCA to coordinate a tour when available

- **Feasibility of converting train tracks to greenway** – Councillor Chiarelli did not have anything to report on this as no activity is underway with the City
  
- **Options for controlling cut throughs and speeding on Monterey**
- Councillor Chiarelli recapped some of the recommendations/studies that had been done in the past to address this ongoing issue:
  - Speed bumps are not an option as Monterey Drive is a direct route to the Queensway Carleton Hospital and bumps significantly slow down ambulances. Councillor Chiarelli noted that he would never support this as emergency response times would be compromised
  - Flex-stakes are an option for slowing down traffic, but they are not installed on roads with on-street parking. He noted it would be unlikely residents would support these when there is already a shortage of parking on Monterey Drive
  - Residents asked about a ‘no right turn from 7-9am’ restriction from Baseline to Monterey but the Councillor noted that this would also apply to local traffic. He had said that residents would need to be surveyed and a significant percentage of people would need to support it to move forward – and often this doesn’t happen
  - The Councillor confirmed that flashing speed boards would be a good deterrent if they were in place long term, and they can collect data as well
  - Jane noted that 3 years ago they had speed boards to collect data on Monterey Drive for a period of time and suggested that this data should be compared to current speed and traffic volumes – particularly since the school boards have cut back on transportation and more parents are driving their children to school
  - Jane suggested the installation of a stop sign at Costello and Monterey (if it could be done safely at that corner) as it would slow traffic down and join the sidewalk on the north side with the new sidewalk on Costello. There is currently no crosswalk for children walking to St. John the Apostle to cross safely.

**Councillor Chiarelli:**  
Set up a meeting with the City’s transportation engineers and members of the LPCA community to discuss options



<p><b>4) Update on Outdoor Rink Season (Jane O'Regan)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jane reported that, despite a very challenging year weather-wise, the rink ran very well. There are several processes and procedures in place and a strong team of rink supervisors and rink maintenance volunteers</li> <li>• Jane noted that the rink was an excellent first job for many teens in the community and she has written recommendations for a few of the kids who worked at the rink</li> <li>• Jim McNally reported that we were able to source out a good, reasonably priced mechanic and even though we replaced the snow blower, he was able to get the old one working – so the community now has 2 working snow blowers</li> <li>• Rachel reported that the minimum wage hike was offset by the City's minimum standards for hours that the rink would be open. In past years, the City has mandated the rink is supervised for 30 hours a week, but in 2018, they went to 20.</li> <li>• Leslie Park's rink had supervision scheduled for 35 hours per week and now we have data to confirm what schedule makes the most sense next year</li> <li>• The rink ended up with a surplus of approximately \$300.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5) Update on Financials (Marina Hartley)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marina provided an update on the LPCA's finances as of December 31, 2017</li> <li>• Marina noted that we are in a surplus position and some of the highlights included:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The Winter Fun day was cost neutral and any expenses were offset by donations and sponsorships</li> <li>b. The newsletters are currently cost neutral as sponsors have been found for most issues (circulated 4-5x per year)</li> <li>c. A new snow blower was purchased for approximately \$2000 but the LPCA has been holding a reserve for this purpose</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Marina confirmed that the LPCA had approximately \$6500 in the bank.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>6) Update on Membership Drive (Rachel Tweedy)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicole will be running the door to door campaign again – she can always use people to help canvass homes in month of May (particularly on Monterey Drive)</li> </ul>	<p><b>All:</b> Interested volunteers should contact Nicole at <a href="mailto:n_lauro@hotmail.com">n_lauro@hotmail.com</a></p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rachel noted that they are looking for someone to assist Nicole on the Membership drive and eventually take over as coordinator (Jane O'Regan volunteered to assist)</li> <li>• Rachel confirmed that having an online option to renew memberships with PayPal has been successful and creates an opportunity for people to join all year</li> <li>• Rachel noted that every year, we have draw prizes for the Membership drive – either restaurant or movie gift cards valued between \$50-100 and we are looking for sponsors of these items for this year</li> </ul>	<p><b>All:</b> Anyone interested in donating Membership Draw prizes should contact Sponsorship Coordinator Allison Cleary at <a href="mailto:allisonmcleary@gmail.com">allisonmcleary@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>7) Update on Cannabis Lounge at 2547 Baseline (Rachel Tweedy)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ottawa Police Service has confirmed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This is an illegal cannabis dispensary and it will remain one after legalization in the summer</li> <li>○ The Asset Forfeiture Unit of the Ottawa Police Service has already served a letter to the landlord informing him that OPS is investigating unlawful activity on his property</li> <li>○ Based on public complaints – they can execute a search warrant and investigate – best channel for public complaints is <a href="#">online</a> or through OPS' app</li> <li>○ The police have no authority to shut down a business.... but with Bill 174 coming it will give the police authority to shut down a business and then fine the landlord. The fine is very significant. The Bill just passed Royal Assent. Bill 174 will be a great deterrent for landlords to have illegal dispensaries operating on their property</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Residents agreed that making complaints to by-law about the state of the plaza (excess garbage etc.) would create a nuisance for the landlord</li> </ul>	<p><b>Councillor Chiarelli:</b> Confirm the name and contact information of the landlord for that plaza and cannabis lounge</p> <p><b>All:</b> File complaints about this business with the police <a href="#">online</a> or through OPS' app</p>
<p><b>8) Discussion around rental units on Costello (All)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neighbours to that unit noted there has been a significant amount of construction on the buildings and they have reported the issues with garbage and debris to by-law</li> <li>• As was discussed in the fall meeting, the building was in receivership and owners are trying to do improvements to the units to re-sell the building. The feeling is that owners are trying to drive out tenants by increasing rent at an unreasonable rate and making the construction as disruptive as possible (the parking garage was closed for renovations and not available to tenants in the winter).</li> </ul>	<p><b>All:</b> Continue to report the poor state of the property to by-law</p>



<p><b>9) Upcoming events and initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resident Greg Laforce will be offering Tai Chi in the park in the Month of May – check out <a href="https://www.lesliepark.ca/events">https://www.lesliepark.ca/events</a> for details</li> <li>• Leslie Park Community Garden is currently accepting applications for the upcoming season. Email <a href="mailto:leslieparkcommunitygarden@gmail.com">leslieparkcommunitygarden@gmail.com</a> to rent a plot – the annual fee is \$20</li> <li>• Spring Cleaning Day will be held on Saturday, May 12 at 10am</li> <li>• Picnic in the Park is planned for Friday, June 22nd             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We will continue to have crafts and games</li> <li>○ We will run a potluck dinner again this year, but it will be a ‘bring your own chair’ event to keep costs low. The LPCA will rent some tables for the food etc. The rental of tents last year was what made the cost of the Picnic so high. Details will be included in the upcoming newsletter</li> <li>○ <b>New this Year:</b> we will set up an area in the shade (possibly close to the garden) where local artisans can showcase their work. Anyone interested in showcasing will be asked to contact <a href="mailto:info@lesliepark.ca">info@lesliepark.ca</a> so we know how much space we need</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Summer Garden Photo Feature on website             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Like the Griswold Christmas Decorating contest, we are going to launch a spring/summer initiative to get residents out and walking around the neighbourhood</li> <li>○ This is not a contest - residents will be encouraged to take photos of their gardens and submit them to <a href="mailto:info@lesliepark.ca">info@lesliepark.ca</a>. We will collect all the photos with addresses and display them on the website in early July</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 2019 Leslie Park Calendar             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Leslie Park Calendar is returning for 2019 so we will be accepting photos in late summer until late fall, with the plan to have calendars ready for Christmas</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>All:</b> Anyone interested in coordinating the field/sports activities for Picnic in the Park – please contact <a href="mailto:info@lesliepark.ca">info@lesliepark.ca</a></p>
<p><b>10) Meeting Adjourned</b></p>	